

THE
ESSENTIAL DEITY OF THE MESSIAH;
AND THE
Great Importance of that Article
OF
THE CHRISTIAN FAITH,
To every conscientious Member of
THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND;
CONSIDERED IN
A SERMON,

PREACHED IN THE CATHEDRAL-CHURCH OF ST. PAUL, JAN. 24,
1790; BEING THE FIRST SUNDAY IN HILARY TERM.

BY C. E. DE COETLOGON, A.M.
CHAPLAIN TO THE RIGHT HON. THE LORD MAYOR.

Ἀδελφοί, ἕτως δὲ ἡμᾶς, φρονεῖν περὶ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὡς περὶ Θεοῦ.

Clem. Rom. Ep. ad Cor. 2. S. 1.

Ante omnia, scire nos convenit, & Ipsum, & Legatos ejus prædixisse, quod plurimæ Sectæ, & Hæreses deberent existere, quæ Concordiam sancti Corporis rumperent: ac monuisse, ut summa Prudentia caveremus, ne quando in laqueos & fraudes illius Adversarii nostri cum quo nos Deus luctari voluit, incideremus.

Lactan. lib. 4. cap. 30.

The Unitarian Expositors contrive to purge the Scripture of every thing, they disapprove; and make it the Oracle, not of God's Wisdom, but of their own Fancies.

Bishop of St. David's.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR J. F. AND C. RIVINGTON, NO. 62, ST. PAUL'S
CHURCH-YARD.

M DCC XC.

PICKETT, MAYOR.

A COMMON COUNCIL holden in the Chamber of the
Guildhall of the City of *London*, on *Thursday* the
11th Day of *February*, 1790.



RESOLVED, That the Reverend *Coetlogon*,
Chaplain to the Right Honorable the LORD MAYOR, be re-
quested to print the Sermons preached by him, before his
LORDSHIP and the ALDERMEN, at the Parish-Church of
St. Lawrence Jewry, on *Sunday* the Tenth Day of *January*
last, and at the Cathedral-Church of *St. Paul* on the First
Sunday in *Hilary* Term; and to cause a Copy thereof to be
sent to every Member of this COURT.

T H E
ESSENTIAL DEITY OF THE MESSIAH;
&c. &c.

I T I M. III. 16.

AND WITHOUT CONTROVERSY, GREAT IS THE MYSTERY OF
GODLINESS, GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH!!!

AMONG the sad Variety of Evils, with which the present Age abounds, in common with those that are past, there is *One*, in which it more especially exceeds; and by which it may in some Sort be discriminated, as it's *Peculiar*---it's *Characteristick*: and that is, *A Spirit of Infidelity*---the forrowful, and fatal Source of that Neglect, not to say, Contempt, of all Religion, and of every thing that bears it's genuine Resemblance, which is the *leading Feature*, and the *Disgrace* of the Times.

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A Circumstance this, which is the more to be lamented, as it will admit of no Excuse, of no Apology. In the Darkness and Superstition of unenlightened Periods and Places, where the genial Influence of a divine Revelation has never shed it's Rays, the Enormities of Mankind may indeed provoke our *Surprise*; but they must also excite our *Pity*: whereas, in the Meridian of supernatural Illumination---in the full Blaze of that Day-spring from on high, which has visited us; to see our Fellow-Creatures still rioting in Licentiousness---still sporting themselves with their own Deceivings---and walking on still in Ignorance and Incredulity, is no otherwise to be accounted for, under the superior Advantages with which we are favoured, than that, they *will not* be learned, nor understand! They are of those, who rebel against the *Light*!

With respect to that *wonderful* Position, which is so plainly asserted in the language of the Text, the remarkable *Obscurity* and *Humiliation* of our blessed Saviour's Appearance in this World have been frequently urged as a strong Objection against his being the very MESSIAH; though, they are indeed among the strongest Confirmations of that interesting Truth: as it was written of Him, many Centuries before his Incarnation, "Who hath *believed* our Report? and to whom is the Arm of the Lord *revealed*? For, He shall grow up before him, as a tender Plant, and as a Root out of a dry Ground: He hath no *Form*, nor *Comeliness*: and when we shall see Him, there

there is no *Beauty*, that we should desire Him. He is despised, and rejected of Men---A Man of Sorrows, and acquainted with grief; they hid, as it were, their Faces from him; he was despised, and they esteemed him not."

But, though the Person, and the Circumstances of the Redeemer, were so very poor, so very mean, as to their external Aspect, there were certain Things, in his History, fully sufficient to inform the World, that He was some very *uncommon* and *extraordinary* Personage indeed. Of this we shall meet with incontestible Evidences, while we are attempting to elucidate the several Particulars, to which our most serious Attention is invited in this grand Festival of our Church, THE EPIPHANY---and which are directly pointed out for our Consideration and Improvement, when it is said, "And without Controversy, great is the Mystery of Godliness, God was manifested in the Flesh."

And here, there is a *Truth* to be considered, which is no otherwise a Truth, than as it was a *Fact*. The Truth and the Fact are one, and the same. If it was not a *Fact*, all the Learning and Ingenuity in the World can never make it *true*. And all the Criticism, and Sophistry upon Earth can never render it *untrue*, if it was a *Fact*.

The Truth then, or the Fact, is simply this---“GOD was manifested in the Flesh.” Or, if there be any decided Meaning in Words, that very Being of Beings, who is supereminently and infinitely distinguished from all possible Beings in the Universe, by the *Name*, and the *Nature* of GOD---who says, I am GOD, and there is none else, and besides *ME*, there is no SAVIOUR---was in the Flesh; in the human Nature. The divine and the human Nature was united in that Person, who is the Object and the Subject of this Passage.

Notwithstanding This is one of the first Principles of the Oracles of GOD, strange as it may seem to say, it has been most vehemently opposed, both by the avowed Enemies, and by the specious Friends of our Religion.---It is our Province therefore to confirm it---not, by the Deductions of *unassisted* Reason and Nature, which can avail us nothing here---not, in the Words which Man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual Things with spiritual; and then, leaving it to the GOD of all Grace, to support his own Cause, as shall seem good in his Sight.

Many and various are the Arguments, which have been adduced, and which might be repeated, in defence of this *distinguishing Peculiarity* of divine Revelation---but we shall confine ourselves to a very few, upon the present Occasion; and to
such,

such, as are level to the Apprehension of a common understanding; which are These.

It is very evident, I think, to the plainest Capacity, that the Holy Ghost himself did direct the inspired Prophets, so to speak of that Person, who was to come into the World, as that we should conceive him to be *a divine Person---truly, and properly, GOD---not by Title only; nor, by Office; nor, by any Qualification, or Limitation whatever; but, by Nature, and Essence.*

I take up the sacred Writings of the old Testament, for instance, as a *Jew*; and I read to the following Effect---

“ The People, that walked in darkness, have seen a great Light: they that dwell in the land of the Shadow of Death, upon them hath the Light shined.”

“ *For*, unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the Government shall be upon his Shoulders; and his Name shall be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, THE MIGHTY GOD, the everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace.”

“ And it shall be said in that day, Lo, This is our God, we have waited for him, and He will save us: This is the LORD, we have waited for him; we will be glad and rejoice in his Salvation.”

And

And again, "O Thou, that bringest good Tidings to Zion, get thee up into the high Mountain : O thou that bringest good Tidings to Jerusalem, lift up thy Voice with Strength, lift it up---be not afraid---say unto the Cities of Judah, Behold your God"---

"Behold, the LORD GOD shall come with strong hand, and his Arm shall rule for him---behold, his Reward is with him, and his Work before him."

And again, "Awake, O Sword, against my Shepherd, and against the Man which is my *Fellow*, saith the Lord of hosts."

So likewise I take up my Bible, as a *Greek*, a *Gentile*, and I consult the sacred Writings of the New Testament, without any Partiality or Prejudice ; and therein I read as follows :

"Behold, the Angel of the Lord appeared unto Joseph in a Dream, and said unto him, Fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife ; for That which is conceived in her is of the holy Ghost"---[notwithstanding which, a modern and restless Herefiarch has had effrontery enough to deny the *miraculous Conception* of the Son of God.]

"And she shall bring forth a Son---And thou shalt call his name, Jesus ; for he shall save his people from their Sins."

"Now

“ Now all this was done that it might be fulfilled, which was spoken of THE LORD by the Prophet, saying,

“ Behold, a *Virgin* shall conceive, and shall bring forth a Son, and his name shall be called Immanuel,---which being interpreted, is, GOD with us.”

And, “ In the beginning was the Word--- and the Word was with God---and the Word was GOD. And the Word was made Flesh, and dwelt among us.”---

And again, “ Feed the Church of GOD, which he hath purchased with his own Blood. Who, though he was in the Form of GOD, and thought it not Robbery to be *equal* with GOD, yet made himself of no Reputation, and appeared in the Likeness of sinful Flesh.”---

Let it be observed, that, in both these Cases, whether as a Jew, or as a Greek, I do not take up my Bible as a *Critic*, and as a *Scholar*---it may be a considerable Advantage so to do, and it may not ; according to the *Use*, or the *Abuse* of our literary Talents.---But the Scriptures were not given by the Inspiration of God for Persons of that particular Description *only*, nor *principally*. * To have Simplicity and godly Sincerity, is all that

* The Holy Spirit, which directed the Apostles and the Evangelists to the Use of the Tongue, which in their Day was most *generally understood*, the *Greek*, would for the same Reason, it may be presumed, suggest to them a Style which might be *generally*

perspicuous.

is *absolutely* necessary; I apprehend, to understand the *essential* Points of our Religion. I take up my Bible therefore, as an humble Sinner, and an honest Man, to be taught of God by his own unerring Word. And, is it *possible* for me to do this, and to read such passages as these, and not to conclude, that the Person spoken of therein, was truly and properly GOD over all blessed for ever?---If a Person is introduced to our Notice, our Confidence, our superlative Estimation and Worship, by the Spirit of Holiness, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of God himself---who informs us, that, He is THE LORD; THE LORD GOD; THE LORD OF SABAOth; JEHOVAH OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS; THE CREATOR, and THE MOST HIGH: assuring us, that, he is the PRESERVER and SUPERINTENDANT of all Worlds---the REDEEMER of Mankind---the JUSTIFIER of all the elect people of God---the great SOURCE of Light, of Life, of Joy to all the celestial Host; and the never-ceasing OBJECT of their Celebration, their Triumph, and their Praise---What is that Reason, that Learning, that Philosophy, which would be so preposterous as to deny, that "THIS is THE TRUE GOD, and ETERNAL LIFE?---

perspicuous. It is therefore a Principle with me, that the true sense of any Phrase in the new Testament is what may be called it's standing sense: that which will be the first to occur to common People in every Country and in every Age.

Bishop of St. David's Letters, &c.

Were

Were we to suppose otherwise, and were we to suffer ourselves to be misled by those, who would seduce and ensnare us into the Opinion, that the Person here spoken of was no more than a MAN, where would be the Wonder, the MYSTERY, the GREAT Mystery---that a *Man* was manifested in the flesh?---The Absurdity, the NONSENSE, as well as the IMPIETY, of such an Idea, exposes and confounds itself.

Indeed, there is an Argument, which may be drawn from the Reason and Nature of things, ADMITTING the Scriptures to contain a divine Revelation, and which, I presume, should have a considerable degree of weight, in confirming this peculiar Article of the christian Faith---Which is, that, if the Mediator be *not* a divine person, and yet the Author and the Cause of our *Redemption*, our Obligations are greater, in *fact*, to a Being, who is not essentially God, than to one, who is. And, what, in the unbounded Regions of Fancy itself, can be imagined more shocking, more abhorrent to common sense, than so extravagant a chimæra as This! For the Blessings of CREATION are as nothing, when placed in competition with those of REDEMPTION.---But the history of human Science, and the knowledge of human Kind, may serve to teach us all, that, there is no Absurdity too gross, for philosophical Affectation to advance, or for learned Vanity to defend!

To *These*, we are indebted, for the amazing Discovery of a *derivative* God---a contradiction both in Nature, and in Terms. So, some would persuade us that the Messiah is a *metaphorical* God---others, an *official* God---others, a *nominal* God---others, that He is no God at all, *in any Sense*---but only the highest of all created Intelligencies; others, that He was only a *perfect Man*; and others again, a Being of possible *Fallibility* and *Corruption* like ourselves!

Thus, in the judicial Proceedings of the moral Governor of the World, when any of us presume to shut our eyes against the most obvious Dictates of supernatural Light---to depart from the Simplicity, that is in Christ---affect to be wise, above what is written--and will not receive the Kingdom of God, as a little Child, evil Men and Seducers are *permitted* then to wax worse and worse; deceiving, and being deceived: until the infinitely wise God, in the regular Operations of his Providence, is known to send them *strong Delusion*, that they may believe a *Lie*, *because* they received not the love of THE TRUTH, that they might be saved. For, if that stupendous Flood of Illumination, which pours itself from the sacred Writings upon the human Intellect, be not sufficient to satisfy the Mind, respecting the *true, proper, and essential* Godhead of the *Messiah*, we are surely justified in supposing, that it must arise from a *Predetermination* not to believe it. And in that case, the most ingenious, accurate, and learned Disquisitions on the
subject

subject may expect to meet with no more Success, than the most elaborate trifling. A Feather might as soon repel a Torrent, as a Conviction find Acceptance, when opposed by an Aversion.

Much indeed has been said and written, with respect to *Mis-translation*. To which it may be replied, Are *all* these Passages mis-translated? That would be very surprising! Besides---if it has pleased the infinite Goodness of God to afford us such a Revelation, is it to be conceived, that it's Language, and it's Translation, would be such as are calculated to mislead us into the most dangerous mistakes, and the most fatal Idolatry?---For, what is the great Design of this very Revelation itself, but to inform us, respecting the *Unity* of the divine nature, and the astonishing Peculiarity of his *Mode* of Existence, in opposition to the polytheistic Idolatry---respecting the true nature of divine Worship, in opposition to every superstitious Error, as to Times, Places, Persons, and Ceremonies---and respecting the precise Way of Acceptance into the divine Favour, and everlasting Admission to the beatific Presence of the most High. For the final Declaration, and consummate Testimony of which, the *second Person* in The ever-blessed and glorious TRINITY became incarnate.

But, if that Person be *not* essentially divine, so little Reason have we to depend upon his Testimony, that, it has been

made appear, [by Evidence which we have been accustomed to look upon as *moral Demonstration*,] “ He was One of the most notorious Impostors, that ever disgraced the human Form---The Mahometan Religion is preferable to the Christian Religion---The Jewish Sanhedrim is to be justified in causing Him to be put to Death---The Writings of the Apostles ought to be protested---and the very Language of the Bible is *obscure, absurd, deceitful, contradictory, and pernicious*.

The Admission of this Doctrine therefore, is so far from being circumstantial, or immaterial, that, it is absolutely essential to the Truth of divine Revelation in general, and to the very Being of Christianity in particular. Or, in other Words, there is such an inseparable Connection between *Revelation, Christianity, and the proper Godhead* of the Redeemer, that, *the Whole* must inevitably stand, or fall, together. And, I am most deliberate in affirming, that, in the Rejection of *Either*, we may be said *virtually* to reject them All.

And yet, without Controversy, most undoubtedly, confessedly, This is a great Mystery: but not the less a Truth, or a Fact, because a Mystery---not the less certain, because inexplicable, and perhaps never to be comprehended by finite Reason and human Capacity, as to it's *Modus*---any more than the *Self-existence* of the Deity. Divine Revelation has fully asserted the Truth; but all the metaphysical Inquisition, all the scholastic Distinction,

Distinction, all the philosophical Researches, which can possibly be made, never did, and never will explain the Thing. GREAT is the MYSTERY of Godliness.

GOD WAS MANIFESTED in the FLESH!!

It has often been maintained, by some of the most pious and learned Students in sacred Writ, that there never has been any kind of *supernatural Manifestation* of the Godhead, since the fall of our first Parents in Paradise, but by the second Person in Jehovah. Thus THE VOICE, which is said to have addressed them, immediately upon their Disobedience, is supposed to have been the Voice of the future Messiah---so likewise That, which spake to the Patriarchs in succeeding Periods.---The Person of *Melchizedek* has been thought by Some to have been Christ himself, in the very Appearance he was to assume in the Fullness of time.---*The Angel*, which delivered the Law from Mount Sinai has been presumed to be, The Angel of the everlasting Covenant.---

So likewise, the *Shekinah*, or the Glory of the Lord, from above the Mercy-Seat, and between the Cherubim.---The Person, who exhibited himself to Joshua in the Likeness of a Man, with a Sword drawn in his Hand, was in all probability the very same Object.---Certain it is, that, *Isaiah* was indulged

dulged with a particular Manifestation of his unutterable Magnificence and Splendour, as THE LORD OF HOSTS, sitting upon his Throne, and adored by the Seraphim, *antecedent* to his Incarnation.

Here however it is asserted, that, after all these various Manifestations of the divine Nature, GOD was MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH. He was manifested *in his Birth*, by Testimonies from Heaven---by a Multitude of ANGELS, to the wondering Shepherds; by an unusual STAR, to the Eastern Magi; and by THE HOLY GHOST himself, to Zecharias and Simeon.

He was manifested *in his Life*, by the *miraculous* Evidences, which He gave, of his being GOD manifest in the Flesh: by the Voice from Heaven at his *Baptism*; and again, at his *Transfiguration* upon Mount Tabor.

He was manifested *in his Death*: For then "Behold, the Vail of the Temple was rent in twain, from the top to the bottom; and the Earth did quake, and the Rocks rent, and the Graves were opened, and there was Darkness over all the Land from the sixth hour unto the ninth hour!"

The *Supernaturality* and *Grandeur* of such Manifestations as These, respecting the Person and the Character of our incarnate Redeemer, are perfectly consistent with this sublime Idea, with
this

this mysterious Truth, and with Nothing short of this, that, GOD was manifested in the Flesh.---

If, in an Assembly like This, it were necessary for me to particularize the several *Reasons*, of inexpressible and everlasting Importance, for which he was manifested in the Flesh; it would be incumbent upon me to remind you, that, He was manifested in the Flesh, "To finish Transgression, to make an end of Sin, to make reconciliation for Iniquity, and to bring in everlasting Righteousness--- He appeared, once, in the end of the World, to put away Sin, by the Sacrifice of Himself---For this Purpose was the Son of GOD manifested, to take away our Sins, and to destroy the Works of the Devil. Forasmuch as the Children were partakers of flesh and blood, Himself took Part of the same, that, through Death, He might destroy Death, and him that had the power of death, and deliver them, who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

The *Necessity*, or even the *Propriety* of such an Expedient, as the Humiliation of the second Person in the divine Essence, to effectuate these Designs, may be to our Apprehensions very unaccountable and mysterious. Be it so. Great is the Mystery of Godliness, GOD was manifested * in the Flesh!!!

* Εφανερώθη; *conspicuus et aspectabilis factus est*. It signifieth such a Manifestation as is *permanent*, as lasteth for ever.

The Greek Scholiast.

By GODLINESS, it may be proper to understand, in this passage, Christianity at large: or, that Religion, which has it's Origin and Source in a divine Revelation.---Very properly so denominated, because it is the only Revelation, which has ever been given of *the Nature of GOD*---Of *the Will of GOD*---Of *the true Worship of GOD*---and, of *the Glory of GOD*, since the Introduction of human Ignorance, Depravity, and Misery, into the World; and, it is the only infallible Cure for every moral Evil.

We have heard indeed of a Maxim, in prodigious Acceptance among those, who chuse to distinguish themselves by the Appellation of rational and philosophical Christians, that where Mystery begins, Religion ends.---If so, there must be an end to the Religion of the BIBLE---For That is evidently full of Mysteries; of such Truths, as are neither discoverable, nor comprehensible, by human Reason. Upon which Account they are denominated, very peculiarly and very fitly, Articles of FAITH; that is, Articles to be believed and received upon the mere Testimony of GOD in his Word---whether they consist with the Principles of what we style Reason and Philosophy, or not.

And, if you take Notice, in searching the sacred Scriptures, you will find, that no other Argument is made Use of in exciting

citing the Attention and conciliating the Credit of those, to whom they are addressed, but, **THUS SAITH THE LORD.** Our blessed Saviour himself assumed the same decisive and commanding Tone, in all his public Ministrations; by introducing, what He had to deliver, with nothing more than, "Verily, verily, I say unto you." In all the grand Mysteries of his Religion, the *Ipse dixit* of an incarnate GOD was to settle their Belief. And, if you and I have not *this Spirit of Faith*, we certainly have not the Spirit of Christianity; and it is equally absurd and dishonest to call ourselves Christians.

For, without this Spirit of Faith, who is there upon earth that will believe **THIS GREAT MYSTERY**, this most amazing Incident, that ever astonished the universal intelligent Creation, **GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH!!** Every Thing indeed is in some sort a Mystery: all that we *see*---all that we *bear*---all that we *know*! *Thought* itself is an incomprehensible Mystery! Our own Existence---The Continuation of human Life---The precise Nature of Death---The essential Difference between Matter and Spirit---and the Bond of Union between them Both. All, all is Mystery, within and without, above, and around us. From the smallest Atom, that floats invisibly in the Atmosphere, to an Archangel---and from an Archangel, to the self-existent GOD.---And, without Controversy, **GREAT** is the Mystery of Godliness!! We *may* controvert about it, to be sure---but, what then? are we the wiser, or the

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better,

better, or the happier for it? How can it be? For, upon what Principles shall we controvert the Subject? Upon Principles of *Reason*?---If so, of whose Reason? of your's, or of mine? Of neither---for, it is no Subject of Reason, but of *Faith*. And if the distinct Provinces of Reason and of Faith are not very nicely observed, there can be no end to *Confusion* and *Scepticism*, to *Infidelity* and *Enthusiasm*.

The Truth, and the Fact then, is simply This, GOD was manifested in the Flesh---And the obvious Inferences are such, as These. Jesus Christ is a Person in the Godhead, truly, properly, and essentially, divine. As such, He is to be worshipped, and adored. And as such, He is to be depended on, and confided in, for all the Purposes of compleat Salvation. As it is written, "Look unto ME, and be ye *saved*, all the ends of the Earth, *for* I am GOD, and there is none else; and, besides Me, there is no SAVIOUR."

I have allowed myself the Licence, which I hope to be forgiven, of being the more minute in the Discussion of this Point, *because*, if it be untrue, with the Name of Christians, we are among the grossest *Idolaters*---Our *Liturgy*, instead of being the most pure, the most sublime, and the most perfect, that the Wisdom and the Piety of Ages could compile, is most irreligious and profane---And our *Churches* themselves in no respect superior to the Pagan Temples;---And *because*, it has been asserted,

asserted, with more *Confidence* than Discretion, and to the Infamy of the *Accusers*, I trust, not of the accused, that the Defence we set up for *The Establishment* is, not for it's *religious Utility*---not for it's *moral Excellency*---not for it's *distinguishing Articles*, but for it's *temporal Emoluments*. Whereas, I would humbly believe, there are None among us, who would not be ready to say, with all the Integrity of christian Zeal, "As to the secular Advantages and the ecclesiastical Honours of our Church, what are They, to the *Characteristic Peculiarities* of our RELIGION ?

"More to be desired are THESE than Gold, yea, than much fine Gold, sweeter also than Honey, and the Honey-comb."---
 "To *this End* was I born, said the great Example and Sacrifice of Mankind, and for *this Cause* came I into the World, that I might bear witness to THE TRUTH. Every one, who is of the Truth, heareth my Voice."---It was the Sneer of Infidelity---It was the Pride of irreligious Ignorance---It was a Character, too profane to be esteemed, which replied to this Confession of the Son of God, in a style of Neglect and Contempt, "What is *Truth* ? "

It is for the Cause of *Truth*, the Cause of *Piety*, the Cause of *Peace*, that we would be understood to exert our best, though feeble, Efforts, for the *Perpetuity* of our present ecclesiastical Constitution---opposed as it now is, in the Use of

Terms, and under *Pretences*, the more dangerous and ensnaring, because so very *specious*, and equivocal.

As a sort of Apology for this virulent, and unreasonable Opposition, we are told of *Conscience*, *Patriotism*, *equal Liberty*, and the *Natural Rights* of mankind; but, I must intreat your Permission both to think, and to *say*, that an unfortunate and restless Disposition to interrupt the public Quiet, and to revive those Animosities, which Time was burying in Oblivion, is totally incongruous with them All.---Patriotism, no doubt, is an excellent Thing---and so is Liberality of Sentiment---and so is sound Philosophy; but, beware the Counterfeit, the Disguise, the Cant.---There are *political*, as well as religious, *Enthusiasts*, *Fanatics*, and *Visionaries*. And, it is by no means impossible, nor perhaps very improbable, unless the kind Providence of heaven should interpose in our favour, when, at the approaching Demolition of your *civil Constitution*---your *ecclesiastical Establishment*---and your *religious System*, there may be Those, who will prostitute the sacred Scriptures themselves, in the Phrenzy of the Moment, and exclaim, “ Lord, now lettest thou thy Servant depart in Peace !”

For, who *are* They, that abhor, detest, and abjure your Establishment, your Liturgy, and your Creeds? They are *chiefly* Those, or of the class of those, who have avowed in the most public Manner, their Belief in the doctrine of Mahomet---and, who
have

have celebrated in their very Writings, the Memory of that Arabian Impostor, as the *military* Scourge of *idolizing* Christians. With *such* a Spirit of *Toleration*, as THIS, it may very easily be foreseen, without any *supernatural* Perspective, what must be the too likely, and the too fatal Consequence, if the *Power* of this Nation should ever fall into *such* Hands.

With that insuperable Disgust of every thing that carries with it the most distant Glance of *Persecution*, which becomes us all, whether as Christians, or as Men---to be silent, *at this Crisis*, would be cowardly---to be neutral, contemptible. Our Enemies themselves being Judges, a *defensive* War is a lawful War; more especially when it is provoked by Confederacy, by Abuse, and by persevering Repetition. We are in possession of apostolical Authority for asserting, that, "It is good to be zealously affected always in a good Thing." For Modes and Forms, if they be nothing *more* than Modes and Forms, let brainless Bigots fight---but here, the Contention, I apprehend, is, for the Glory of GOD, manifest in the Flesh---for the Honour of the Creator, and the Redeemer of the World---for the grand Peculiarities of divine Revelation---and, in the final Issue of Things, for the greatest Blessing, which, as a Country, we enjoy.---

To be candid, is to be amiable; but, when the *Foundations* of Christianity, and of the Kingdom, are attacked, whether it
be

by open Force, or by secret Conspiracy, to be *candid*, is to be *criminal*; and the Suppression of pious Indignation, is an Outrage against the righteous Claims of true Religion, and of the purest Establishment, since the Theocracy itself, in the History of the World.

Conscious, as I am, of my own Insignificance, in the Community, of which I have the Honour to be a Member---and surrounded, as I must necessarily feel myself, with such a Superiority of Abilities and Virtue, I will venture however upon your Indulgence, while I add to these few Hints---

Do you wish, that that inestimable System of divine Truth, which, considered merely as a *Book*, a *Composition*, both Learning and Genius have been compelled to own is a Volume of Sublimity and Grandeur, of Taste and Elegance, without a Parallel ---A System, which, if it were received as no more than a *Digest of Ethics*, is the most entire and consummate, that can possibly be produced---a System too, which the moral Governor of the World has been pleased to reveal at sundry Times, and in divers Manners, for the space of four thousand Years together, by Patriarchs, by Prophets, by Apostles, and by the Son of God himself; and which contains in it the most illustrious Display of the manifold Wisdom, the infinite Purity, the immutable Justice, the unfathomable Grace, and the incomprehensible Glory of THE TRIUNE GOD---do you wish that
System

System to be preserved and maintained as the Religion of the Empire?

Do you wish to see the most valuable Ingredient in our Constitution---for what is a civil state, without a *national Religion*? and, what *Security* is there for a national Religion, without an *ecclesiastical Establishment*?---Do you wish to see *that Establishment*, which, has been the Ornament and the Glory of this Kingdom, ever since the Reformation; which has been the Guardian, the Protector, the Support of divine Truth for more than two hundred Years; I speak not here of *Persons*, of *Characters*, or of *Exceptions*, but of *The Establishment* itself; which, with all its *Imperfections*, it is perhaps as indecent, as it is illiberal, to insult; an Establishment, which has been the Admiration of the *Wise*, and the *Best* of those, who have ever been ordained to plead the Cause of God and Truth: whose *Articles* are so scriptural---whose *Devotion* is so pure---whose *Forms* are so solemn, and so simple at the same Time---and whose *Martyrs* have been every Thing but Apostles, to say nothing of her Bishops or her Clergy;---do you wish to see such an Establishment abused, disgraced, destroyed?---If not, where are then our JOSHUAS---our EZRAS---our NEHEMIAHS? Let them *step forth*---let them *unite*---let them be *zealous* in exposing the disingenuous Taunts of the *Sanballats* and *Tobiabs*, the *Ebionites* and the *Cerinthians* of the present Day.

God

God forbid, that either We, or our Posterity, should have reason to lament any monstrous Obtrusion upon the *Peace*, the *Worship*, or the *Order* of that Church, in which we are every one of us instructed to say, from the Sanction of our Text, " O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O LORD GOD, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest away the Sins of the World, have Mercy upon us! Thou that takest away the Sins of the World, receive our Prayer! Thou that fittest at the right hand of GOD, have Mercy upon us."

" For thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the Glory of GOD the Father."

Unto whom therefore, three Persons in one undivided and incomprehensible Jehovah, be ascribed the Kingdom, the Power, and the Worship, for ever and ever. Amen.

12 MR 58

BARTLET'S BUILDINGS, LONDON.

MONDAY, Feb. 1, 1790.

AT a very numerous General Meeting of the SOCIETY for PROMOTING CHRISTIAN KNOWLEDGE.

Whereas in the printed Resolutions of sundry Meetings of Protestant Dissenters, in different parts of the kingdom, it hath been insinuated that many of the Clergy, as well as other Members of the Established Church, concur with the Dissenters in wishing for a repeal of the CORPORATION and the TEST ACTS; and whereas the said Meetings of Protestant Dissenters invite such Members of the Established Church as may concur with them in their sentiments of the Test, to co-operate with them in their efforts for it's Abolition:

It is therefore unanimously resolved,

I. That it is the sense of this Society, that the repeated Attempts of the Dissenters to obtain a Repeal of the Corporation and the Test Acts, must give great uneasiness to all true friends of the Established Church: and that the most distant probability of it's success would be a cause for the greatest apprehension and alarm; the Test being a wise and necessary provision of the laws, for the common security of the Civil and Ecclesiastical Constitution, the interests of which, in this realm, are inseparably connected.

II. That it is the earnest wish of this Society, in which they are confident they have the concurrence of all conscientious Churchmen, that the blessings of a full toleration should be extended to Christians of all denominations; which blessings they conceive the Protestant Dissenters in England do actually enjoy.

III. That Religious Toleration would not be enlarged by the abrogation of the Corporation and the Test Acts, although the influence of Dissenters, in the concerns both of Church and State, would be encreased in a degree inconsistent with the security of either.

IV. That this Society returns it's warmest Thanks to those upright Members of the House of Commons, who, however divided in their general politicks, have twice successfully united their virtuous efforts to resist the attempted innovation in the constitution of the united kingdoms. The Society is confident that by similar exertions, the renewed attempt will be again defeated; and it's Members declare that they will be ready upon all occasions, as far as their ability may extend, to shew a grateful sense of those publick services; and they invite and conjure their Brethren, in all parts of the kingdom, as they value the blessings, civil and religious, of the British Constitution, and would transmit them entire to their posterity, to co-operate with the Members of this Society, with firmness and vigour, in the common cause.

V. That the above Resolutions be printed in the publick newspapers.

Signed, by Order of the Board,

GEORGE GASKIN, Sec.

Just published, by the same Author,

THE TEST OF TRUTH, PIETY, AND ALLEGIANCE:

A Sermon, delivered on the Day of Sacramental Qualification for the Chief Magistracy of the City of *London*; before the Right Honourable the LORD MAYOR, the COURT of ALDERMEN, and SHERIFFS.

A L S O,

RELIGION AND LOYALTY, the Grand Support of the *British* Empire: A Sermon, delivered in the Cathedral-Church of *St. Paul*, *January 30, 1790*, before the Right Hon. the Lord Mayor, the Court of Aldermen, &c. &c. being the Anniversary of the Martyrdom of King *Charles the First*.

12 MR 58



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